

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims

Please amend claims 1-5, and add new claim 6, as follows:

1. (Presently Amended) A polymer electrolyte fuel cell comprising a stack containing a plurality of unit cells laminated, compressed and retained via a retaining plates, said unit ~~cell~~ cells each comprising a pair of electrodes sandwiching a polymer electrolyte membrane and conductive separator plates having a gas supply channel on at least one surface thereof and sandwiching said electrodes,

wherein said retaining plates each consist essentially of two plates having an undulate cross section, has hollow sections which are separated from one another, and forms a gap between said unit cells such that one of said unit ~~cell~~ cells or a cell module comprising a plurality of said unit cells between said retaining plates is removed and installed.

2. (Presently Amended) The polymer electrolyte fuel cell in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~said retaining plate is composed of two plates having an undulate cross section and has hollow sections which are separated from one another and~~ a cooling water flows through said hollow sections between said unit cells or said cell ~~modules~~ module comprising a plurality of said unit cells.

3. (Presently Amended) The polymer electrolyte fuel cell in accordance with claim 1, wherein one of said conductive separator plates is provided for every two unit cells and has a cooling water flow channel, and one of said retaining plates is provided for every one cell module comprising a plurality of said unit cells.

4. (Presently Amended) The polymer electrolyte fuel cell in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a voltage measurement jig and a voltage display device for said unit ~~cell~~ cells.

5. (Withdrawn but Presently Amended) A method of using a polymer electrolyte fuel cell comprising: a stack containing a plurality of unit cells laminated, compressed and retained via retaining plates, said unit ~~cell~~ cells each comprising a pair of electrodes sandwiching a polymer electrolyte membrane and conductive separator plates having a gas supply channel on at least one surface thereof and sandwiching said electrodes; a voltage measurement jig; and a voltage display device for said unit ~~cell~~ cells wherein each of said retaining plates forms a gap between said unit cells or between cell modules each comprising a plurality of said unit cells, said method comprising the steps of:

measuring a voltage of each of said unit ~~cell~~ cells or said cell ~~module~~ modules; and replacing one of said unit ~~cell~~ cells or said cell ~~module~~ modules when said voltage of said one unit cell or said one cell module is detected to be a predetermined value or less.

6. (New) A polymer electrolyte fuel cell comprising a stack containing a plurality of unit cells laminated, compressed and retained via retaining plates, said unit cells each comprising a pair of electrodes sandwiching a polymer electrolyte membrane and conductive separator plates having a gas supply channel on at least one surface thereof and sandwiching said electrodes,

wherein said retaining plates each consist essentially of two plates having an undulate cross section, has hollow sections which are separated from one another, and forms a gap between said unit cells such that one of said unit cells or a cell module comprising a plurality of said unit cells between said retaining plates is removed and installed, and

wherein one of said conductive separator plates is provided for every two unit cells and has a cooling water flow channel, and one of said retaining plates is provided for every one cell module comprising a plurality of said unit cells.